

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER TRUST**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust
1 Center Plaza, Suite 430
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Notice: Due public notice given
Attendees Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Yvette DePeiza, Program Director, MassDEP
Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust
Absent

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. **40 Year Project Financing:** Mr. Keenan brought to the Committee's attention that EPA Region 1 has asked if the Trust has considered providing 40-year extended term financing for projects that have a useful life of at least the term of the loan. EPA Region 1 is asking because the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) is in early discussions regarding absorbing Chicopee's wastewater services and reached out to EPA Headquarters about available financing options. SWSC told EPA that in order for the consolidation to be financially feasible, extended term financing past what the Trust currently allows, which is a 30-year loan, would be needed. Ms. Perez noted that the Trust would need to review what impact this would have on contract assistance, loan forgiveness and whether this action would be allowable under the Trust's existing enabling statutes. Additionally, the Trust would need further detailed information both from SWSC and from the City of Chicopee regarding the consolidation.
2. **Governor's Recommended Supplemental Budget (Capacity and PFAS):** Mr. Perez noted that there were two appropriations related to the Trust in the Governor's 2019 supplemental budget. 1595-1200 allocates \$20 million for PFAS remediation in public water supplies, and 1595-1205 allocates \$35 million to increase the Trust's project capacity. Additionally, the budget contains language to allow the Trust to move forward on the school water improvement grant (SWIG) program to put bottle filling station in schools that tested positive for lead. The Trust will monitor the supplemental budget and bring any changes to the Committee's attention.
3. **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals:** Mr. Keenan stated that the Trust was working with Steve McCurdy, Acting-CFO at MassDEP, and Jenny Outman, Staff Attorney at

MassDEP, to finalize revisions and comments for the Availability Study developed by Keen Independent. One issue, Mr. Keenan noted for the Committee's consideration was the decrease in the recommended goals from the analysis. The goals recommended by Keen Independent in the draft Availability Study would be half the existing goals. It was noted that this could be a change from methodology used between the previous and current analysis. Ms. Perez asked for more information on the basis of the previously established goals and the discrepancy between the goals and achievement rates. The Trust will work with MassDEP on finalizing the fair share objectives and bring it back for the committee to review.

4. **School Water Infrastructure Programs:** The Committee discussed another aspect of school water infrastructure that is tied to the SWIG program, specifically water quality and testing in schools. Ms. DePeiza, the Program Director for MassDEP's Drinking Water Program, presented the next steps for the school Lead testing and the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) Grant Program. MassDEP has submitted their work plan for the WIIN grants for the future testing of schools. The effort will primarily focus on childcare facilities, which had not been eligible for testing under the previous testing phases.

Ms. DePeiza wanted to know if there were any funding solutions available for childcare facilities – which would not be eligible under the current formulation of SWIG program. She wanted to know if a filtration pitcher or smaller devices could be made available to childcare facilities. Ms. Perez stated she does not believe this would be eligible under the Trust's rules and that these filtration pitchers are such a small cost it would not be reasonable to go through the Trust. Ms. Jonas-Silver asked if MassDEP has thought of asking other state agencies that deal with children health's issues if they have a small grant program that could assist with this program. Ms. DePeiza will look into how else the program may be funded.

5. **LSL Replacement Program Update from MassDEP:** Ms. Pinaud brought to the Committee's attention a number of program specific questions raised in internal discussion at MassDEP. Mr. Keenan stated that the Trust would review the questions and follow up with the Committee.

Other Business (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED:

1. Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Program – Discussion Notes

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 10/24/2019